



Navy assists in Alaska Airlines Flight 261 recovery operations

By Journalist 1st Class(SW) Douglas H. Stutz, Joint Information Bureau for the Alaska Air Flight 261 recovery

PORT HUENEME, Calif. (NNS) — From as far away as Puget Sound, Wash., Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and Point Loma, Calif., a wide range of vital Navy assistance has centered on Naval Construction Base (NCB) Port Hueneme.

The Navy assets are lending specific support in locating downed Alaska Airlines Flight 261 that crashed Jan. 31 off the coast of Calif.

Navy ships, aircraft, equipment and personnel have been pooled at NAS Point Mugu to join initial U.S. Coast Guard efforts and the ongoing National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recovery operations.

Located near the crash site in the midst of the

Channel Islands, NAS Pt. Mugu is serving as the epicenter for ongoing air and logistical operations, and NCB Port Hueneme is providing continuous support for port operations and as a command operations center for the many agencies involved in the recovery operations.

The first Navy units on the scene were a Navy P-3 "Orion", a maritime patrol aircraft from Naval Air Station Point Mugu, a Navy HH-60 "Seahawk" helicopter from Helicopter Combat Support squadron (HCS) 5, a Navy Reserve squadron also based at NAS Point Mugu and a Navy S-3 "Viking" patrol aircraft from NAS North Island.

Along with airborne



The Scorpio, a Tethered Unmanned Work Vehicle is brought back aboard the MV Kellie Chouest after recovering the second of two flight recorders from Alaska Airlines Flight 261.

Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 1st Class Spike Call

assets that quickly arrived on scene, surface ships also supported search and rescue efforts. USS Fife (DD 991), a Spruance-class Destroyer

with two "Seahawk" helicopters (one HH-60, one SH-60) and a rigid hull inflatable

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Clinton unveils Vieques plan, calls for vote

By Linda D. Kozaryn, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (NWS) — The people of Vieques, Puerto Rico, will decide the fate of Navy and Marine Corps training on their island, President Clinton announced Feb. 1 in a videotaped address to the people of Puerto Rico.

Clinton has directed a referendum be held so the island's 9,300 residents can choose between two alternatives. They can vote to end all training and have the Navy leave the island by May 1, 2003. Or they can vote to have

the Navy continue training on Vieques on terms that would be presented at least three months before the vote.

Clinton's order calls for the Navy to request a referendum date that falls within a period spanning 270 days before or after May 1, 2001.

The president directed the Office of Management and Budget to request \$40 million to support community development on the island regardless of which way the vote goes, but the islanders would receive

another \$50 million in assistance if they choose to allow training to continue. The economic aid is in recognition of the burden the training places on the community, Clinton said.

The Atlantic Fleet has trained at Vieques since 1941. Controversy erupted in Puerto Rico in April after Marine Corps jets accidentally dropped two 500-pound bombs on a range observation tower, killing one person and injuring four others. Protesters occupied the

training site, and Puerto Rico's governor called for an immediate halt to live-fire training.

Navy officials have sought to continue training at Vieques. They've labeled the site "the crown jewel training experience," vital to maintaining readiness.

Clinton expressed his deep regret over the death of range guard David Sanes and said he understands why people would want to end the training. "At

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Society may change, leadership does not, CNO says

By CNO Public Affairs

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (NNS) — The fundamentals of leadership remain constant even as society changes, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jay L. Johnson recently told class officers from the five service academies when he addressed approximately 150 senior midshipmen and cadets during "Leaders' Forum 2000" at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

The annual Leaders' Forum brings together some of the top-ranked seniors from the U.S. Naval, Military, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine academies to

consider the challenges and opportunities ahead of them.

"Even if [today's youth] are different, even if they come from a different lifestyle than we grew up in, they're still looking for leaders, for discipline, to be a part of a team," the CNO said. "They're still looking for a pathway forward that makes them a better person and a better member of their team."

Adm. Johnson told the

future ensigns and second lieutenants they will be "role

models" when they graduate in a few months.

"It's a wonderful

opportunity for you to put your imprint on the generation that follows and indeed on your own peers," said Adm.

Johnson. "You are senior to two-thirds of the force the day that you are commissioned. A lot of people will be looking to

you for answers."

The CNO pointed out that the changing demographics of civilian society would present some distinct challenges for the class of "Double-Aught."

"In the Congress of the United States, right now there are only 11 senators and 23 congressmen who have ever worn the uniform of the United States Navy," said the CNO. "Overall, for all services, less than one-third of the Congress has ever worn a uniform. They haven't had the experiences that we have had."

Adm. Johnson explained
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"Even if today's youth are different, even if they come from a different lifestyle than we grew up in, they're still looking for leaders..."

— Adm. Jay L. Johnson, CNO

New program gives officers opportunity to earn doctorate and go into higher education

By Ens. Kim Brasel, Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Navy is looking for a few good officers to earn doctorate degrees at the military's expense and become professors at the U.S. Naval Academy until retirement.

Senior officers interested in earning a doctorate degree and teaching at the collegiate level will have the chance with the FY01 Permanent Military Professor (PMP) Program.

The purpose of

NAVADMIN 006-00 is to improve instruction at the Naval Academy by detailing officers with operational

experience to earn a Ph.D. and then

become permanent professors at the U.S. Naval Academy until their retirement.

For more information, NAVADMIN 006-00 is

located on the BUPERS web site at

www.bupers.navy.mil, or contact Lt. Cmdr. Dave Julian, N13E, at (703) 695-6408.



More Power



Carrier Airwing Nine performs an air-power demonstration over John C. Stennis (CVN 74) Battle Group and South Korean naval vessels for Korean distinguished visitors on board Stennis.
Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class Brian A. Dunn.

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the same time, as commander in chief, I must do all I can to ensure that our service men and women get the very best training possible," he said.

Right now, no alternative sites exist that provide the same combined training opportunities, Clinton explained. He called on Puerto Ricans to help make this solution work. Noting that many Puerto Ricans have served with distinction in the U.S. armed forces, he said, "I know you understand. You have never turned your back on your duty to share in the defense of our country."

He acknowledged that for many residents the accident "exacerbated old wounds" about the effect the training was having on quality of life.

"Mistrust has been building for decades. As a Defense Department panel found, we have not always been good neighbors on Vieques," he said. "But I believe this plan will help resolve the impasse over Vieques in the fairest way possible, because it gives the people most affected by the decision the ability to choose for themselves what the future of their island will be."

Clinton thanked Puerto Rico Gov. Pedro Rossello and other local government officials for their efforts to resolve the impasse. "Puerto Ricans and the people of Vieques have contributed greatly to our nation's security. ... I hope all of us can work together with our Congress and with the government and governor of Puerto Rico to implement this plan," the president said.

Defense Secretary William S. Cohen issued a Jan. 31 statement welcoming "the progress made in establishing a framework to move past the tragic accident of last April and

focus squarely on the future." He said White House, DoD and Navy officials have worked with the government of Puerto Rico since early December to reconcile the vital need for training with the legitimate concerns of the people of Vieques.

Cohen said the president's

decision will enable the Navy and

Marine Corps to resume training necessary to remain strong and ready, as well as providing economic benefits for the islanders. "Most importantly," Cohen said, "this clears a path for a fair, objective referendum through which the people of Vieques can chart the future and how the Navy fits within that vision."

Until the vote is taken, Clinton ruled training will resume on Vieques, but there will be no live-fire training. Navy and Marine Corps training will be limited to nonexplosive ordnance.

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that communicating with non-veteran members of Congress about what life is like when deployed aboard ship, with an air wing or on a submarine involves a different approach than when talking with those who have served.

Adm. Johnson also pointed out that the nation is losing an important link to its past as more than 1,000 members of the World War II generation die each day.

"The World War II generation gave us family

"I am also directing the Navy and Marine Corps to cut in half the amount of time they will spend training," he said. "In 1998, our troops trained for 182 days on Vieques; this year they will be authorized for 90 days."

Clinton also announced plans to take steps to meet the

health, safety, environmental and economic concerns of Vieques residents. Once training resumes and remains continuously available pending the vote, the president directed the Office of Management and Budget to request \$40 million from Congress to fund the following projects:

- A Public Health Service study to review health concerns raised by the islanders.

- The transfer of 110 acres of Navy property to extend the runway at the Vieques Municipal Airport to accommodate larger passenger aircraft and for the Navy to provide

training and supplemental equipment to bolster the airport fire, safety and resource capability.

- Development of a new commercial ferry pier and terminal.

- Improvement of major cross-island roads and bridges.

- Creation of an artificial reef and fish aggregation program. Until the new fishing grounds are operational, registered commercial Vieques fishermen will be paid for each day they are unable to use existing waters because the Navy is training. The amount they receive would be determined by the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Services.

- Environmental programs to preserve the Puerto Mosquito Vieques bioluminescent bay, maintain the ecosystem and conservation zones and implement wildlife management plans.

- An apprenticeship/training program for small-scale civic construction projects.

- An economic development office for promoting Vieques and attracting jobs to the island.

linkages to the military," said the CNO. "[If] you take that reality and push it away from us forever at a rate of 1,000 a day, ask yourself what that is going to mean a decade or two from now. I think we will have a profound fundamental change on the lifestyle of America, particularly as it relates to service of the country. And once the linkage is gone, you can't reattach it."

The CNO told the senior midshipmen and cadets that the importance of leadership in

addressing these challenges remains constant.

"Leadership must be a guide star for us," CNO continued. "In the last decade we've learned a lot about ourselves in the leadership business. We've made huge institutional investments in leadership training to increase the fidelity of leadership throughout the Navy. It's working. Leadership is a fundamental part of our life — from petty officer through admiral."

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boat (RHIB) "zodiac-type" embarked is on station along with USS Jarrett (FFG 33), an Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate with two SH-60 helicopters and one RHIB embarked. Both ships are based out of San Diego.

On Feb. 1 and 2, Navy assets involved in recovery operations expanded as the amphibious transport dock, USS Cleveland (LPD 7), homeported in San Diego arrived on scene. Cleveland is providing support for small craft and helicopters.

Other surface assets include M/V (Motor Vessel) Kellie Chouest, a Navy contracted research and salvage vehicle manned by Navy experts in underwater operations. The San Diego-based Kellie Chouest has a high resolution side scan sonar for identifying and locating objects below the surface. In addition, the ship has Remote Operated Vehicles (ROVs) which can verify and recover contacts identified by the side scan sonar.

The Navy has recovered

both of Flight 261's "black boxes" (the cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder) using Kellie Chouest's ROV. The recorders have since been transported to the NTSB's laboratories in Washington, D.C. for analysis. The Alaska Airlines MD-83's tail section has been located but not yet recovered.

USNS Sioux (T-ATF 171), a fleet ocean tug of the Military Sealift Command, is also assisting in recovery operations with heavy lift equipment and side-scan sonar.

The specialized M/V Independence, will provide safe and timely placement, monitoring and recovery of oceanographic equipment, including towed or fixed systems utilizing diver or ROV operations.

San Diego-based Explosive Ordnance Mobile Unit 7 is on site with SWATH (Small Waterplane Area Twin Hull) craft. The SWATH has a high resolution side scan sonar (KLEIN 2000) for identifying and locating objects below



Machinist Mate 2nd Class Robert Duncan of Torrance, CA searches the ocean floor for the second of two flight recorders "black boxes" from Alaska Airlines Flight 261 while Machinist Mate 2nd Class Robert Rodriguez of Amarillo, TX pilots the Scorpio Unmanned Work Vehicle. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 1st Class Spike Call

the water surface. It also has ROVs, which can verify contacts (video) identified by the side scan sonar and recover objects.

Navy diver support comes from Commander Explosive Ordnance Group (COMEODGRU) One from San Diego, Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 2 from Port Hueneme and Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit Detachment San Diego

(MDSU SDGO).

Navy Supervisor of Salvage and Diving (SUPSALV) based in Washington, D.C., has representatives on scene to assist NTSB with planning the salvage operation. SUPSALV has mobilized such equipment as towed pinger locator system, towed side scan sonar system, deep drone remotely operated vehicle and associated support equipment.

Navy Voting Assistance Program helps make your vote count

By John Hillis, Navy Personnel Command Voting Program Manager

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) — While many of our Sailors and their families will be far from home on Election Day this year, they will still be able to cast their votes — thanks to absentee ballots and the Navy's Voting Assistance Program.

The Voting Assistance Guide and your command Voting Assistance Officer can assist you in registering and requesting a ballot using the

Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) Standard Form 76. Completing the FPCA and sending it to your local voting jurisdiction is all that it takes. Postage is not required if you mail the application in the United States from an FPO or APO mail facility or a U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

The best time to apply for an absentee ballot is 30-45 days before an election. In most states, ballots are mailed to

voters 20 days before an election.

Remember, by exercising your right to vote you are helping to choose people who make decisions that affect your life. Let your vote count!

For more information, see your command voting assistance officer, or visit the Navy's new voting assistance web site, <http://www.persnet.navy.mil/pers66/nvap/>.

For questions that can't be answered locally, contact the Navy Voting Action Officer, Navy Personnel Command, at the toll-free Navy Voter Hotline, 1-800-368-5056 INCONUS (except Tennessee). In Tennessee and OCONUS, to include Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, please call DSN 882-4369, (901) 874-4369 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST.

Navy streamlines U.S. citizenship application process

By the Navy News Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Permanent resident Sailors and Marines who are seeking U.S. citizenship based upon completion of three years of honorable active duty military service are going to find the application process much easier.

In a recent memo to the Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Secretary of the Navy announced that the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), in concert with the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Military Services, has streamlined the application process to obtain U.S. citizenship based upon military service. It is anticipated that the process, which used to take 18-24 months, if not longer to complete, can be reduced to as little as three to four months.

This streamlined process

will require the Navy and Marine Corps to take a more active roll in processing the citizenship applications. This would include performing quality control checks of members' applications, completing certificates of Military or Naval Service (INS form N-426), processing the Biographic Information Forms (G-325B), and even arranging for fingerprinting.

Most of these services will be provided at the local level through the members' commands and their Personnel Support Detachments, shipboard personnel offices, or consolidated administration office (CONADs), in conjunction with legal offices and Naval Criminal Investigative Services/Criminal Investigations Divisions.

Navy and Marine Corps units would then forward the

completed packages to the newly established INS Central Military Processing Unit.

The SECNAV stressed in the memo that this is an important quality of life initiative that will give Sailors and Marines a broader range of opportunities with regard to flexibility of assignments.

"I'm very excited about this program," said Mrs. Carolyn Becraft, assistant Secretary of the Navy for manpower and reserve affairs. "Before, permanent residents have been precluded from certain assignments because of their status. Now, they'll be able to get those kinds of jobs they aspire to, especially ones involving security clearances. This will also help members with reenlistments, but if they want to leave the military, they can now come out as U.S. citizens."

On Navy/ Marine Corps News

Look for the following stories and more on next week's show.

* Navy renders assistance in Alaska Airlines crash off the California coast.

* USS BonHomme Richard (LHD 6) Sailors and Marines set sail for the Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf.

* We continue the Centennial Celebration of the Silent Service aboard the ballistic missile submarine USS Wyoming (SSBN 742).

* Students in the Delayed Entry Program visit Sailors on the job in San Diego to experience the jobs and excitement the Navy has to offer.

Compiled on tape #2000-06, the show is on its way to the fleet now.

In naval history: Feb. 5, 1971

Navy officers Capt. Alan B. Shepard Jr., Commander of Apollo 14, and Cmdr. Edgar D. Mitchell, Lunar Module Pilot, walked on the surface of the Moon. During the nine-day mission, 94 lbs. of lunar material was collected and Shepard became the first person to hit a golf ball on the moon. After their Moon mission, recovery was by helicopter from USS New Orleans (LPH-11).

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This is the way we wash the ship



USS George Washington (CVN 73) tests her countermeasure washdown system during a Chemical, Biological, Radiological (CBR) drill. George Washington is currently conducting carrier qualifications in the Atlantic ocean.

Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 1st Class Robert Catalano.